assistance but also non-Plan assistance. It was so when I was in the Planning Commission. I cannot say what the latest position about it is. But it was almost 110 per cent that we used to give, only with a view to see that in matters of development, they come on par with the rest of the country. That was the point of view we had.

Coming to the handicrafts that the hon. Member has referred to, there is still great demand for the handicrafts of Kashmir in spite of the mechanisation introduced. For example, there is tremendous demand for Kashmiri carpets because they have different designs and people, in fact, like very much Kashmiri Carpets. It is not that there is no demand for the same.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 62.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have one supplementary .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have allowed one supplementary. Question No. 62.

**Commission to Inquire into Assassination of late Rajiv Gandhi**

*62. SHRI P. UPENDRA:†

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Commission of Inquiry has been set up to inquire into the dastardly assassination of the former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, on 21st May, 1991 if so the terms of reference of the Commission;

(b) the progress made by the Commission as well as by the SIT in unearthing the conspiracy and by when the Commission is likely to submit its report; and

(c) whether the terms of reference of the Enquiry Commission have been revised; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

A Commission of Inquiry was set up on 27.5.91 consisting of Justice Shri J. S. Verma, a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court of India. The terms of reference of the Commission are as under:—

(a) whether the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi could have been averted and whether there were lapses or dereliction of duty in this regard on the part of any of the individuals responsible for his security;

(b) the deficiencies, if any, in the security system and arrangements as prescribed or operated in practice which might have contributed to the assassination. The Commission may also recommend the corrective remedies and measures that need to be taken for the future with respect to the matters specified in clause (b) of the paragraph mentioned above. The Commission is to submit its Report within 3 months.

The Verma Commission of Inquiry has already issued a notice inviting from individuals, Associations, Organizations, Institutions, Authorities and all other persons acquainted with the subject matter of the inquiry to furnish to the Commission a statement of facts relating to the matters specified therein on or before 31st July, 1991, and wide publicity has been given to the above Notice.

The SIT has so far examined 189 witnesses, carried out searches at 33 places and arrested 12 accused persons. Further investigation is in progress and disclosure of any other information in this connection at this

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri P. Upendra.

juncture may not be in the interest of investigation.

The question of modifying the terms of reference of the Commission is under consideration of the Government.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi is the most sensational and gruesome tragedy. The murder was meticulously planned and ruthlessly executed. The Government of India has instituted two inquiries, one by a Judicial Commission headed by the Justice Verma and the other by a Special Investigating Team. The SIT has done some good work. They have already apprehended about 12 persons accused of the murder. And two more conspirators are at large. But it is surprising that while the Minister says that details cannot be given—which I understand; of course, he cannot give all the details at the time of investigation—newspapers are carrying, every day, complete details of the progress of the SIT investigations. And the July 15 issue of 'India Today' has given the entire story of how the conspiracy was hatched, how it was executed and how it happened and all that. Every day, reports are coming. I do not know how much it would help the investigation. Secondly, I would like to know whether this SIT is supposed to be the agency to assist the Commission of Inquiry or its job is only to identify the killer and nothing else and whether the Sri Lankan Government is completely cooperating with the SIT in unearthing the conspiracy. Since the ingredients of the bomb were supposed to be of foreign origin, of Western origin, may I know whether the services of the Interpol etc. have also been enlisted in getting at the truth?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir so far as working of the SIT is concerned, this investigating agency has been investigating and trying to collect all the material facts. Whether the security arrangements as they were prevailing were adequate; whether there has been any negligence on the part of any of the security officers. The Commission of Enquiry, presided over by Justice Verma, are looking into the whole matter. Then he asked about the story given by INDIA TODAY. Sir, I will request all the hon. Members that whatever comes in the papers or in the magazines, some of it might be true, very little of it and on that, some kind of a fiction is also being written by some of the papers. I request all the hon. Members that they should rely only on the information which is given and authenticated by the officers concerned. The rest of the thing is figment of imagination.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: His next question was whether the Sri Lankan Government is assisting our team and about enlisting the help of Interpol.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: The Government of Sri Lanka has been cooperating with us. In fact, there is no difficulty about it. As far as enlisting the help of Interpol is concerned, we have still not thought it necessary to employ their services for this kind of a job. We feel quite confident that the SIT will be able to do the job properly.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the Commission of Enquiry is going into the broad aspects of the matter. It is not correct. The terms of reference for the Commission of Enquiry were whether the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi could have been averted and whether there were lapses or dereliction of duty in this regard on the part of any of the individuals responsible for the security; Secondly the deficiency, if any, in the security system and arrangements as prescribed or operated in practice which might have contributed to the assassination. Sir, it is a very strange type of terms of reference and very limited because it has been proved that there was a lapse. The Commission of Enquiry need not say whether there was a security lapse. Otherwise, how he would have been killed? He was killed in spite of all the security

arrangements prescribed and all that. That itself shows that there is something wrong. That is a limited aspect. Even the Thakkar Commission had a very wide range of terms of reference. For example, they were asked to find out whether any person or persons or agencies were responsible for conceiving, preparing and planning the assassination and whether there was any conspiracy in this behalf and if so, all its ramifications. We had been repeatedy demanding that the terms of reference of the Verma Commission must by enlarged. In the Session which was held on June 4th, 1991, the then Prime Minister assured that the terms of reference would be enlarged but nothing has been done and today you are replying that the matter is under consideration. You have come to power on the sympathy wave after the death of Rajiv Gandhi. Your first priority should have been to enlarge the terms of reference of the Commission of Enquiry. One month has passed but you have not done it and still you are telling, the matter is under consideration.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I am very happy that Mr. Upendra has such a good feeling about Rajiv Gandhi. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I always had (*Interruptions*).

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: The Home Minister should not make such remarks. We are concerned about the assassination. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI P. UPENDRA: We are not living on his name as they are doing (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: This is an insinuation. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: The Home Minister should not make an unsavoury remark. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: We were genuine friends. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: He is a leading member of the Government. He must withdraw it. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, there is no insinuation involved. In fact, I quite appreciate that these hon'ble Members are expressing so vehemently that insinuation is there.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The matter is about Rajiv Gandhi's death ... (*Interruptions*).. concern of the entire nation It is not the monopoly of the Congress party, not the monopoly of the Home Minister. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, if the hon'ble Members are taking exception even to the appreciation of the feeling that they have been expressing here, I cannot help it. This is the appreciation that I was making. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: This is an absolutely left-handed compliment. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S B. CHAVAN: I think, there is something wrong. I do not think that I can ever think in terms of paying left-handed compliments. (*Interruptions*)...Anyway, these things seem to be very obvious to some of the hon'ble Members. There are sections in the society who, in fact, do believe that they had made necessary arrangements and there was no lapses and that is exactly the reason as to why I had only referred in a general way. The terms of reference have been published, everybody knows it. And the other part is about the terms of reference to be enlarged. That was one of the points which some of the hon'ble Members of this House had taken up. The matter was discussed with the Chief Justice of India and also with Justice Verma and the modalities are being worked out and within two or three days it should be possible to finalise it and that is why I had to say that the matter is under consideration.

**श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : मान्यवर, जिस तरह से अभी चर्चा हुई, 3 और 4 जून को भी इस सदन में बहुत विस्तार-पूर्वक राजीव जी की निर्मम हत्या के संबंध में चर्चा हुई थी । सभापति जी, मैं उस समय की चर्चा में कही हुई केवल एक-दो बातों को रखना चाहता हूं जो माननीय साल्वे साहब ने अपने भाषण के क्रम में कही थीं । उन्होंने कहा था कि :

"Madam, we welcome the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry under the Chairmanship of a Supreme Court Judge. But the terms of reference of the Commission, however, are highly unsatisfactory. The Government must realise that the nation is in no mood to accept findings which do not go to the very root of the conspiracy of the assassination and clearly identify persons and interests, however mighty or powerful, behind Rajivji's assassination."

आनरेबल साल्वे साहब ने स्वयं यह अपने भाषण के क्रम में कहा था जो कि कानून के एक बहुत बड़े ज्ञाता हैं । जिस तरह से इन्क्वायरी होती हैं और जिस तरह से इन्क्वायरी आफ कमीशन की रिपोर्ट हम लोगों के सामने आती हैं उसे संतोषजनक नहीं कहा जा सकता हैं उन्हीं के वर्ड मैं मान्यवर यहां पर कोट करना चाहता हूं । उन्होंने कहा था कि :

"It does happen and it has been our experience that some Commissions' reports have only done the work of white-washing."

मान्यवर, मैं इस लिये इस बात को कहना चाहता था कि इससे यह सरकार इस मामले में पूरी तरह से कटघरे में खड़ी हो गई है । क्योंकि इस सरकार के जो गृह मंत्री अभी हमारे सामने बैठे हैं, जिन्होंने अभी जवाब दिया हैं, उन्होंने ही 4 जून को खुद अपने भाषण में इसी सदन में जो कहा था, मैं उसको यहां पर कोट करना चाहता हूं । जिन्होंने आज जवाब देना हैं उन्होंने ही यह कहा था और यही मेरा सबसे बड़ा सवाल है । मान्यवर, चव्हाण साहब ने स्वयं अपने भाषण में 4 जून को इस सदन में कहा था कि :

"My only point is I have my own apprehension that Tamil Nadu Government has to be taken over because of certain links with the militant groups, Tamil militants having links with ULFA, having links with Punjab militants."

मान्यवर, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से केवल जानना चाहता हूं कि वर्मा कमीशन के जो टर्म्स आफ रेफ्रेंस थे उनसे न तो माननीय सदस्य साल्वे जी जो वरिष्ठ सदस्य और कानूनविद है वे संतुष्ट थे । मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि इतने दिनों के बाद टर्म्स आफ रेफ्रेंस जो आपको बिलकुल क्लीयर कर देने चाहिये थे अभी तक क्यों किये नहीं गये? नम्बर दो, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि उस समय के तत्कालीन कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव जो आज हमारे प्रधानमंत्री जी हैं उन्होंने सरकार को एक बड़ा पत्र लिखा । उस पत्र की बातें अखबार में भी आई थी । मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि प्रधानमंत्री जो उस समय कांग्रेस के प्रेजीडेंट थे उनका पत्र क्या सदन को बताया जाएगा और आपने तथा साल्वे साहब ने जो बातें कहीं थीं उनको ध्यान में रखते हुए वर्मा कमीशन की टर्म्स में क्या आप क्लीयर इंडीकेशन देंगे और सदन को बताएंगे कि किस तारीख तक इसकी पूरी रिपोर्ट सदन के सामने आ जाएगी?

**श्री एस. बी. चव्हाण** : सभापति जी, साल्वे साहब ने जो कहा था और मैंने जो कहा था यह अभी माननीय सदस्य ने पढ़ कर सुनाया लेकिन मुश्किल यह है कि उनकी भी मुश्किल यह है कि वह पूरी स्पीच को पढ़ नहीं सकते हैं क्योंकि अध्यक्ष जी ने कहा कि आप सवाल

पूछिए इसलिए वह सारी स्पीच नहीं पढ़ पाए और एक हिस्सा ही पढ़ पाए । अगर पूरी स्पीच पढ़ें तो मैंने उस में साफ कहा था कि टर्म्स आफ रेफ्रेंस बढ़ाना जरूरी है । टर्म्स आफ रेफ्रेंस को बढ़ाते वक्त एक दिक्कत यह है कि कमीशन तो मुकर्रर हो गया है और कमीशन मुकर्रर होने के बाद जब तक हम उन से सलाह मशविरा न करते, चीफ जस्टिस साहब के साथ सलाह मशविरा न करते इसमें ऐसे सवाल उठे हैं कि अगर कमीशन से यह कहा जाए कि इनवेस्टीगेटिंग एजेंसी का काम करो तो कमीशन यह कहता कि यह काम हमारा नहीं है इनवेस्टीगेशन का काम पुलिस का काम है । इनवेस्टीगेशन को छोड़ कर दूसरे जो सवाल हैं जिनके अन्दर जाना जरूरी है और इसके बारे में क्या मोडेल्टीज तय होना जरूरी है इसके बारे में चीफ जस्टिस साहब के साथ प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब की बातचीत हुई । जैसे मैंने थोड़ी देर पहले कहा कि शायद दो तीन रोज के अन्दर इसके बारे में फैसला हो जाएगा ।

**श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : आपने स्वयं कहा कि पंजाब के आतंकवादियों के साथ, उल्फा वालों के साथ, यह भी आपने 15 तारीख को इस सदन में कहा बिलकुल क्लीयर है लिट्टे का इसमें हाथ है । तो क्या टर्म्स आफ रेफ्रेंस का विस्तार क्षेत्र आप पंजाब कश्मीर, आसाम और श्रीलंका तक बढ़ायेंगे ? यह मैं जानना चाहता हूं ।

**श्री प्रमोद महाजन** : सभापति जी, क्या कमीशन से यह पूछना जरूरी है कि टर्म्स आफ रेफ्रेंस क्या दिये जाएं ? गवर्नमेंट टर्म्स आफ रेफ्रेंस पहले तय करेगी या कमीशन से पूछेगी कि यह टर्म्स आफ रेफ्रेंस हैं ?

**श्री एस. बी. चव्हाण** : मैं समझता हूं अगर माननीय सदस्य थोड़ा शान्तिपूर्वक समझने की कोशिश करेंगे तो कमीशन मुकर्रर होने से पहले गवर्नमेंट को तय करना पड़ता है कि कौन से टर्म्स आफ रेफ्रेंस दिये जाएंगे (व्यवधान) आप जरा सुनिये तो । यह मामला कमीशन को एक मर्तबा देने के बाद उसमें फर्क पड़ता हैं । अगर टर्म्स आफ रेफ्रेंस को इनलार्ज करना है तो कमीशन से पूछना पड़ता है । हो सकता है कि कमीशन यह कहे कि जो टर्म्स आफ रेफ्रेंस आपने दिये हैं मैं उनके ऊपर ही काम करूंगा और इनलार्ज किये हुए टर्म्स आफ रेफ्रेंस पर काम करना पसंद नहीं करूंगा । यह भी हो सकता है । इसलिए इन दोनों में फर्क करना बहुत जरूरी है । दूसरा सवाल माननीय सदस्य शंकर दयाल सिंह जी ने जो पूछा है उसके बारे में इतना ही कहूंगा कि टर्म्स आफ रेफ्रेंस बिलकुल क्लीयर हैं जिसमें वाइड इन टर्म्स दिये गये हैं । अगर उनको यह लगे कि उल्फा का कहीं हाथ है या पंजाब के मिलटेंट्स का हाथ है तो कमीशन जरूर उसके बारे में इन्क्वायरी कर सकता है । उसमें कोई रोक-टोक इसके अन्दर नहीं है ।

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, I fear the motive behind the black act of assassinating Rajiv Gandhi may be very deep...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Why black cats?

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: It is not black cat, it is black act. I think he is afraid of black cats; he is accustomed to black cats now-a-days...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: I could not make out whether it is black cat or black act.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: He is not afraid of the black cats. He feels the need for the black cats.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: I do not know why he is so much interested in black cats. I said black act. I said the motive of the assassination, of this black act, may be very deep. There is an apprehension prevailing in this country, there is a suspicion, that for a long time forces from abroad and within this

country which are interested in disintegrating this country, in destabilising our democracy, are engineering communal clashes and political murders. I suspect that the LTTE, which is supposed to have been involved in this murder, might, after all, be a mercenary in this act. Some forces from abroad and within this country might have employed these forces to commit this murder. So, I would like to request the honourable Minister whether this aspect also may be included in the terms of reference of the inquiry.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: So far as the internal forces are concerned, the Commission of Inquiry will definitely try to find out as to what led to the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. But as regards the external forces, if they are involved, that is a matter which, when the terms of reference are enlarged, at that stage—at least that is my feeling—will possible be covered, under the enlarged terms of reference.

**श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय** : माननीय सभापति जी, 27 मई को यह आयोग गठित किया गया है और कमीशन से यह कहा गया था कि तीन महीने के अंदर अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत कर दे। करीब करीब पौने दो माह बीत चुके हैं, अभी टर्म्स आफ रेफ्रेंस यही रहेंगे या उनमें बढ़ोत्तरी होगी यही तय नहीं हो पाया है । दूसरी और लोगों से सूचनाएं भी मांगी गयी थी कि 31 जुलाई तक सूचनाएं दे देंगे जिनको इस संबंध में जानकारी है । इसी संबंध में माननीय सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया का एक परिनियत संकल्प है जो आपने एडमिट भी कर लिया है । मेरा प्रश्न सिर्फ यह है कि अभी जैसा कि गृह मंत्री जी ने कहा कि शायद 2-3 दिन के अंदर सरकार इस निश्चय पर पहुंचेगी कि टर्म्स आफ रेफरेंस में संशोधन करे या नहीं करे । अगर सरकार टर्म्स आफ रेफरेंस में संशोधन करने का फैसला करती है तो इसका मतलब यह हुआ कि लोगों से सूचनाएं फिर मांगी जाएंगी । इस विषय पर इनको क्या कहना है । दूसरा क्या सरकार मेरे इस सुझाव पर विचार करने के लिए तैयार है कि जब तक टर्म्स आफ रेफरेंस के सवाल पर अंतिम रूप से सरकार फैसला न ले ले तब इस संबंध में अग्रिम सारी कार्यवाही को रोक देंगे ।

**श्री एस० बी० चव्हाण** : जिन-जिन लोगों को जानकारी है कमीशन की तरफ से उन सब लोगो को यह कहा गया था कि 31 जुलाई तक अपने अपने जो स्टेटमेंट हैं, जो जानकारी है उसको कमीशन के पास भेज दें । माननीय सदस्य का यह कहना बराबर है कि अगर टर्म्स आफ रिफरेंस इनलार्ज हो जाते हैं तो इनलार्ज्ड पार्ट की हद तक अगर नये सुझाव किसी को भेजने हैं तो हम कमीशन को जरूर लिखें कि उनको मुद्दत देनी चाहिए कि जिन लोगों के पास कोई जानकारी है और वे देना चाहते हैं तो उसके लिए वे मुद्दत दें ।

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, since I know it as a fact that the Government is trying its level best to expand the terms of inquiry, I did not want to get involved in the controversy. But in the reply of the hon. Home Minister there are certain implicit assumptions of law and on that I would like to seek clarifications. First, the Inquiry Commission, in accordance with the provisions of the law, is to inquire into the matter which is referred to it and report to the Government on certain facts. That implies going into and investigating certain aspects of the matter. So, the Commission of Inquiry cannot decline to go into the investigation necessary to report properly on terms. Secondly, Sir, as a matter of propriety, the commissioner may be consulted for enlargement of the terms of reference, and that is perfectly valid. But, what I would like to konw is—incidentally, I was connected with the making of this law as the Chairman of the Select Committee—I want to enquire from him, Sir, assuming for a moment—I do not doubt at all—if the Commissioner were to say, "No, I would not allow the expansion of the terms of in-

quiry," is the Government going to accept that as final? I maintain that under the law, it is for the Government to decide what terms of reference are going to be. I will be grateful if the hon. Minister could clarify this issue because the whole nation is agitated over this matter.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: So far as the first part of the question is concerned, the Commissions of Inquiry Act is very clear on this point, and in matters of law there can be no difference of opinion between the hon. Members Mr. Salve, and the Government. Certainly we are prepared to sit with him in order to find out. But my understanding of the problem is that ultimately if cases are going to be filed they will be filed in the Sessions Court or for that matter in the High Court... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I am not referring to the conduct of prosecution.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I am telling you the implications. The implication of it is, that, the cases are filed in the Sessions Court or they are filed in the High Court. Hhere is a Supreme Court Judge who is inquiring into the matter and if his findings are going to be scrutinised either by the Sessions Court or the High Court, then no Supreme Court judge will ever take the responsibility of inquiring into such matters in future. Apart from that, I am prepared to sit with him and if he is able to convince me that under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, it is the responsibility of the Commission to do the investigation, we will certainly discuss it. This was the very issue on which the Supreme Court Judge said that it was none of his business to investigate into the matter. Investigation of the matter is the responsibility of the police department. A judge is not supposed to investigate. He can only give a broad direction... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: How did the Thakkar Commission go into all these aspects?... (*Interruptions*)... I am not a lawyer... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: But still you are putting the question... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: The point is, does the Commission have powers to enlarge or only the Government has got the ultimate authority to enlarge... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: The Government has the authority. His point has been clarified... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Is it fair on the part of the Home Minister to disclose his assumptions?... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I have already stated the position and I hold the view, what I have stated. I do not say anything about which I am not convinced. I am convinced about it... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is not the question of his being convinced. ... (*Interruptions*)... He should convince the nation... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, I have a point of order... (*Interruptions*)... I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister to the statement made by the previous Prime Minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar. He said that he would permit any enlargement of the terms of reference of the Commission after consulting the political parties.. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: He meant the Congress party... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, let the Home Minister consult the record of the House... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: If everybody starts putting questions, how can we carry on with the Question Hour? Please sit down. Yes, Mr. Sukomal Sen.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, this is an extremely serious matter. But

there is a disparity in the stand taken by Mr. Chavan when he was not in power and the stand taken by him when he is in power. On the 4th of June, when the Rajya Shbha was in session, I may tell him, Mr. Chandra Shekhar and the Congress (I) leaders including Mr. Chavan and other Members spoke on this matter. The point is about the enlargement of the terms of reference and, at that time, the Congress (I) party leaders like Mr. Chavan and Mr. Salve and also Mr. Narasimha Rao demanded enlargement of the terms of reference. So, it is not just a matter of the assassination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi alone... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has agreed to enlarge the terms.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: So, it is not a question if the assassination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi alone. About six years ago, Mrs. Indira Gandhi was assessinated and now Mr. Rajiv Gandhi has been assassinated. One of the terms of reference is to find out whether there was any lapse on the part of the police officers in protecting Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. But the questiin is what the forces are, whether internal or external, which are operating in the country and which want to destabilize the political system of the country by assassinating political figures like Mr. Rajiv Gandhi or other individuals. That is the main issue before the country. About that what is the thinking of Mr. Chavan and his Government? Are they going to include this in the terms of reference so that the matter can be properly investigated? Even the Thakkar Commission was going into such matters thouh the matter could not be conclusively gone into. I would, therefore, like to know whether the honourable Minister is thinking in these terms.

There is another thing. Though the honourable Minister asks us not to believe what is printed in the newspaper, I would like to know one thing. A Colombo newspaper has come out with a news item that there was some celebration in Jaffna after the assassination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and that the LTTE has claimed responsibility for the assassination. I would like to know from the Minister whether this report is correct. What is the information available with the Government?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, so far as the internal processes are cincerned, I have given the information to the honourable House that the terms of reference, as they stand today, are clear eniugh and the Commission will look into all aspects of the question and, thereafter, when they submit the report, the honourable House will come to know which are the forces which are involved.

With regard to his second question about certain people in Jaffna rejoicing over the killing of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, on that issue, from the Sri Lankan Government we do not have any information and that is a paper report only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Ahluwalia.

**श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया :** सभापति महोदय, मैं साधारण सा सवाल आपके माध्यम से पूछता हूं, क्या मंत्री महोदय जरा बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस कमीशन का दफ्तर अभी तक नहीं नहीं खोला गया हैं और मेहम कांड का जो दफ्तर हैं, मेहम कांड के लिए जो इन्क्वायरी कमीशन का दफ्तर खोला गया हैं उसी में जस्टिस वर्मा को वहां बैठने के लिए एक टेबल दे दिया गया है और अभी तक उनको कोई सेक्रेटेरिएट नहीं दिया गया है? जो मेहम कांड इन्क्वायरी कमीशन अभी चल भी रहा है उसका भी वह सेक्रेटेरिएट है, वही सेक्रेटेरिएट उनको भी दिया गया हैं, कोई सेपरेट सेक्रेटेरिएट नही मिला है क्या हाउस को बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि सरकार कितनी गंभीरता से इस पर विचार कर रही है ?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: How serious the Government is!... (*Interruptions*)... This only shows how serious the Government is... (*Interruptions*)... This only proves the lighthearted approach of the Government to this question... (*Interruptions*)...

**श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया :** और सभापति महोदय, टर्म्स आफ् रेफ्रेंस मे हमने पहले भी मांग की थी और उस वक्त के प्रधान मंत्री चन्द्रशेखर ने एशोरेंस दी थी कि बात करके करेंगे, अगर इस जस्टिस वर्मा इन्क्वायरी कमीशन के अंतर्गत आप इसको नहीं डाल सकते हैं तो आप एक दूसरा इन्क्वायरी कमीशन बैठाइए जिसके माध्यम से आपने खुद यह रेजोल्यूशन हम लोगों का एक्सैप्ट किया हुआ है कि विदेशी ताकतें और आंतरिक ताकतें कौन-कौन इसमें इन्वाल्व हैं उनका भी पता लगे और एक्सपोज किया जाए कि किन्होंने इस षड्यंत्र में हिस्सा लिया है और क्यो नहीं यह जो इन्क्वायरी कमीशन चल रहा है अब तक उनको एक सेपरेट सेक्रेटेरिएट दिया गया है, यह जरा बताने की कृपा करें?

**श्री एस. बी. चव्हाण :** सर, पहले सवाल के बारे में, मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि उनको बाकायदा दफ्तर दिया गया हैं और विज्ञान भवन के अंदर... (**व्यवधान**)...

**श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलूवालिया :** पता है मुझे वह मेहम कांड के इंक्वायरी कमीशन के कमरे में है, वह भी पता है।

**श्री एस. बी. चव्हाण :** मेहम कांड का कमीशन पहला तो वाइंड अप हो गया है। उसके बाद अब नया जज मुकर्रर करने की बात चल रही है। अभी तक उसके अंदर कुछ नहीं हुआ है। रीसेंटली उसके अंदर गवर्नमेंट ने आर्डर दिए हैं सुप्रीम कोर्ट से एक नया जज देने के लिए। जस्टिस मदन जो उसके अंदर इंक्वायर कर रहे थे उन्होंने रेजिग्नेशन द दिया हैं, इसलिए अब नया जज सुप्रीम कोर्ट से आने के बाद मेहम कांड के बारे में जांच शुरू होगी। इस वक्त वहां जो जगह पड़ी हुई हैं, उस जगह में अगर वे लोग बैठते हैं तो क्या हर्ज है? उसके अंदर 28 कमरे हैं और उनको जो भी पेपर्स चाहिए वह सब उपलब्ध हैं। उसके बाद भी अगर आप चाहते हैं... (**व्यवधान**)...

**श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया :** मेहम कांड इंक्वायरी कमीशन के लिए जो सेक्रेटरी था और 28 कमरे दिखा रहे हैं। राजीव गांधी की हत्या हो गयी, इन्हें उसकी इंक्वायरी करने के लिए सेक्रेटेरिएट नहीं मिला हैं, सेक्रेटेरिएट स्टाफ नहीं मिल रहा है। वही सेक्रेटेरिएट स्टाफ जो मेहम कांड में अमीर सिंह की हत्या के सिलसिले में नियुक्त किया गया था, वही सारा स्टाफ उनके साथ लगाया हुआ हैं। उसका अभी तक कोई आफिसियल नोटिफिकेशन नहीं हुआ हैं।

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, so far as the staff for the Commission is concerned, as it is, 40 to 42 posts were sanctioned and some people have already been appointed. Maybe, 3 or 4 people for which proposals have gone to the Prime Minister will be appointed shortly. As soon as the terms of reference are enlarged and they start working in right earnest, the staff will be in position.

MR. CHAIRMAN: MR. Swaminathan

**डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय :** माननीय सभापति जी, यह इतना इम्पोर्टेन्ट मामला हैं, इस पर हाफ एन आवर डिस्कसन का आप आदेश दें। यह साधारण मामला नहीं हैं और इस पर प्रश्न-उत्तर होंगे और प्रायवेट मेम्बर्स बिल आते रहेंगे। इस पर आदेश हाफ एन आवर डिस्कसन का आदेश दें, यह हमारी मांग है। यह पूरे राष्ट्र से संबंधित मामला है। हम लोगों ने नोटिस दिया है।

**श्री सभापति :** मैं देखूंगा।

Give notice. आप बैठिए। पाण्डेय जी, आप बैठिए। Nothing will go on record what Mr. Pande say?

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : *

श्री सभापति : आप कायदा जानते हैं। मैंने कह दिया, आप नोटिस दे दीजिए, मैं देखूंगा।

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: There have been Press reports, Sir, that the same group which is supposed to have assassinated Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is also threatening some important leaders of Tamil Nadu. The names of four or five leaders of Tamil Nadu, including that of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, also figure in the Press reports. Her life is also being threatened. Has the Government come to know about this and are they going to do anything about it?

Secondly, the National Security Guard has been given to some of the Chief Ministers, including the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The other day there was a discussion about the National Security Guard. Sir, I would like to know whether the Government of India is going to continue the National Security Guard to the Chief Ministers, including the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, or the Government of India is having a different view in the matter.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: About the first part of the question, I have also seen reports appearing in the newspapers. But at this stage it will be difficult for the Government to say whether any person is involved or not. It is for the Commission to find out if the persons mentioned in the newspapers are involved or not. I cannot possibly at this stage say anything about it.

About the second part of the question after the new Chief Minister has taken over she has written to the Government of India saying that they would like to have security from the Government of India. And we have provided the same. We do not propose to discontinue it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 63.

**आत्रे समिति का प्रतिवेदन**

*63. **श्री रणजीत सिंह :†**
**श्री राम जेठमलानी :**

क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार की संचार प्रणाली में उपयुक्त सुधार करने के वास्ते सिफारिशें करने के लिए गठित आत्रे समिति का प्रतिवेदन प्राप्त हो गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने उक्त प्रतिवेदन का अध्ययन करने के पश्चात् इन सिफारिशों को कार्यान्वित करने के लिए कोई योजना बनायी है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में योजना का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि कोई कार्य-योजना नहीं बनाई गयी है, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और सरकार द्वारा इस समिति पर कुल कितनी राशि खर्च की गयी है?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The Athreya Committee Constituted by the Government for recommending the most appropriate organisational structure for management of telecom services in the country has submitted its report in April, 1991.

(b) to (d) The report is being studied and processed by the Government for taking appropriate decisions on the various recommendations. The total expenditure incurred on the Committee is about Rs. 1,04,000.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister has replied... (*Interruptions*) Sir, only one minute is left.

AN HON. MEMBER: Not even one minute.

*Not recorded.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ranjit Singh.